



CDBG-MITIGATION

(CDBG-MIT)

PUBLIC HEARING

NOVEMBER 19, 2020



Presenters

Ms. Keva Muller

VIHFA, COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

Mr. David Martin

VIHFA, CHIEF DISASTER RECOVERY OFFICER

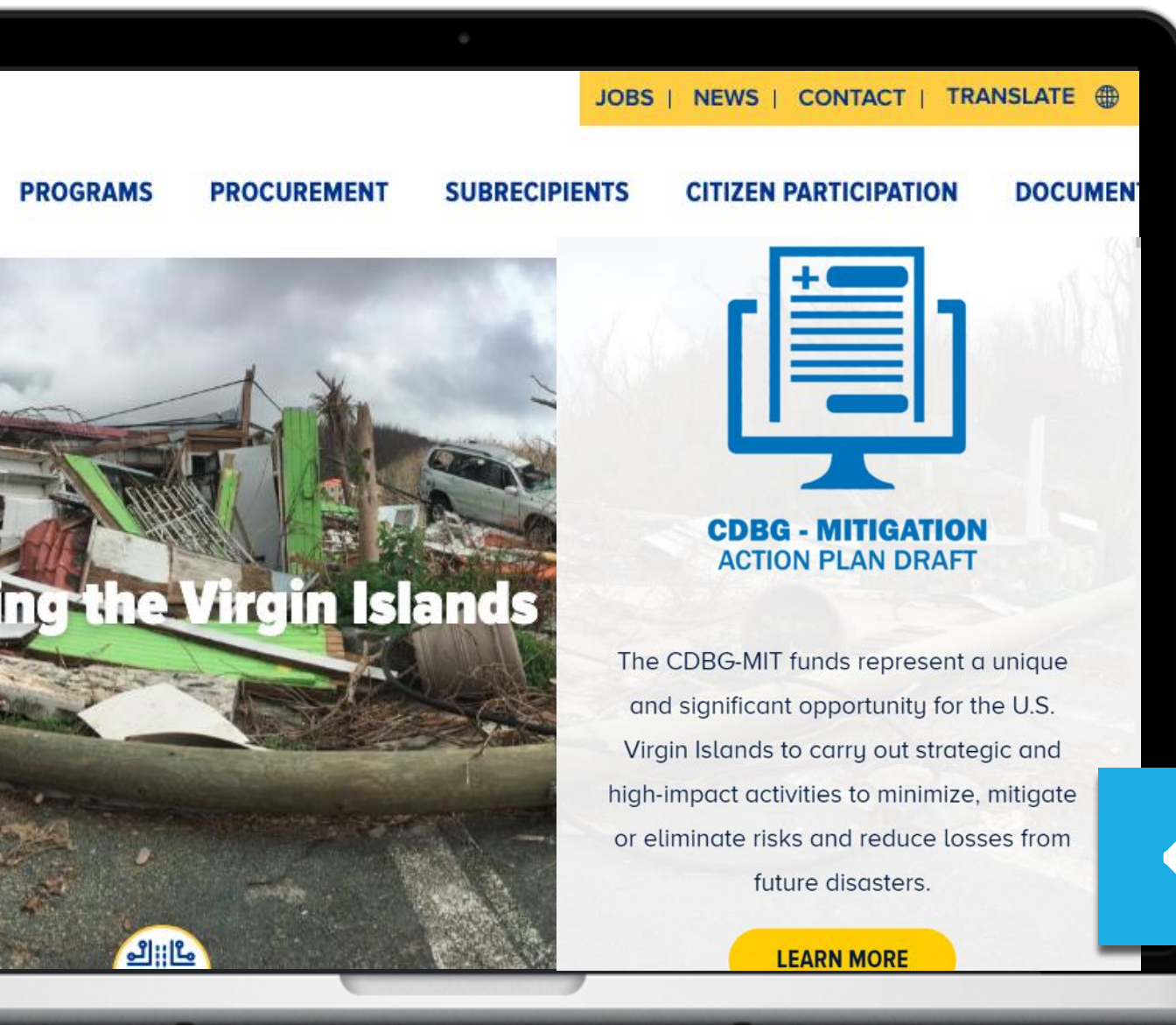
Mrs. Antoinette Fleming

VIHFA, CDBG-DR DIRECTOR

Mr. Andrew Thorley, JD

TETRA TECH, PROJECT MANAGER





Published Draft CDBG-MIT Action Plan

Read The Full Plan At:

<https://cdbgdr.vihfa.gov/>



Goals for Today's Public Hearing



Gather feedback and comments while presenting the published USVI CDBG-MIT Action Plan



Discussing planned project areas that will help save lives and reduce future losses to homes, businesses and critical facilities



Spreading the word about the comment process and the available online survey to encourage feedback from USVI residents

Public Input Process for Comments


The VIHFA wants to hear your comments.



1. Verbal comments are encouraged at the end of the presentation.
 - Add your first and last name in the Chat feature within **Zoom**
 - Comments are first come, first served
 - Limited to 4 minutes per person
2. Questions and comments can also be submitted using the **Zoom** Chat feature.
 - Include your first and last name
 - Questions will be addressed if time allows.
 - All comments will be recorded and may be addressed at a later date in written format.
3. Take the VIHFA CDBG-MIT Survey at www.vihfa.gov or <https://tinyurl.com/y7t35cpf> – link in Chat.
4. Email your feedback and comments to VIHFA at mitigation@vihfa.gov

CDBG-MIT Funding

Federal Register Notice Vol. 84 No. 175 for U.S. Virgin Islands published September 10, 2019 subject to the requirements of Federal Register Notice Vol. 84 No. 169 published August 30, 2019



\$774,188,000 allocated to the U.S. Virgin Islands due to Hurricanes Maria and Irma for mitigation and resilience



U.S. Virgin Islands Action Plan for Mitigation funds extended
due date is **January 4, 2021**

CDBG-DR | Tranche 1: \$242,684,000

CDBG-DR | Tranche 2: \$779,217,000

CDBG-DR | Tranche 2a: \$53,588,884

Total CDBG-DR: \$1,075,489,884

CDBG-MIT | Tranche 3: \$774,188,000

Total CDBG-DR & CDBG-MIT: \$1,850,289,884

Total USVI
CDBG-DR &
CDBG-MIT
Allocations*

* HUD will issue a separate allocation to address electric power systems

HUD Definition of Mitigation

“Those activities that increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by lessening the impact of future disasters.”

- CDBG-MIT Federal Register Notice Vol. 84 No. 169, August 30, 2019



HUD Goals for CDBG-MIT



Support data-informed investments with a focus on repetitive loss of property and critical infrastructure



Build capacity to comprehensively analyze disaster risks and update hazard mitigation plans



Support the adoption of policies that reflect local and regional priorities with a focus on community risk reduction



Maximize the impact of funds by encouraging leverage, private/public partnerships and coordination with other federal sources

CDBG-MIT Funds Spending Timeline



50% of funds expended in 6 years



100% of funds expended in 12 years

CDBG-MIT Requirements



CDBG-MIT Activity Requirements

1

Meet the definition
of mitigation
activities

2

Address the current
and future risks
identified in a
Mitigation Needs
Assessment

3

Be CDBG-eligible
activities or eligible
pursuant to a waiver
(or alternative
requirement)

4

Meet a HUD national
objective

The published Action Plan draft describes how activities can satisfy these requirements

Mitigation Needs Assessment

A risk-based assessment enclosed within the Action Plan informs the use of CDBG-MIT funds to meet mitigation needs, considering identified current and future disaster risks.



The VIHFA process used for the Mitigation Needs Assessment

Consulting with other jurisdictions, the private sector and other government agencies

Examining the most recent risk assessment via the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan

Examining identified risks in the FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan

Adjusted 2020 Hazard Ranking

For the Mitigation Needs Assessment (MNA) sections within the CDBG-MIT Action Plan, hazards were ranked by potential dollar loss as reflected in the table, which shows an updated risk assessment ranking for the Territory. This ranking arose from careful analysis of currently available data. Based on these identified hazards, hurricane and riverine flooding* were the top-ranked hazards in the new results.

*Note that riverine flooding results from heavy rainfall causing water runoff that spills into adjacent low-lying areas, in contrast to coastal flooding, which is considered a separate risk category.

Hazard	St. Thomas	St. Croix	St. John
Drought	5	5	5
Earthquake	3	3	4
Riverine Flooding	2	2	2
Coastal Flooding	6	6	3
Hurricane	1	1	1
Pandemic/Disease Outbreak	Unranked		
Rain-Induced Landslide	7	7	6
Tsunami	4	4	7
Wildfire	8	8	8

Mitigation Risk Analysis

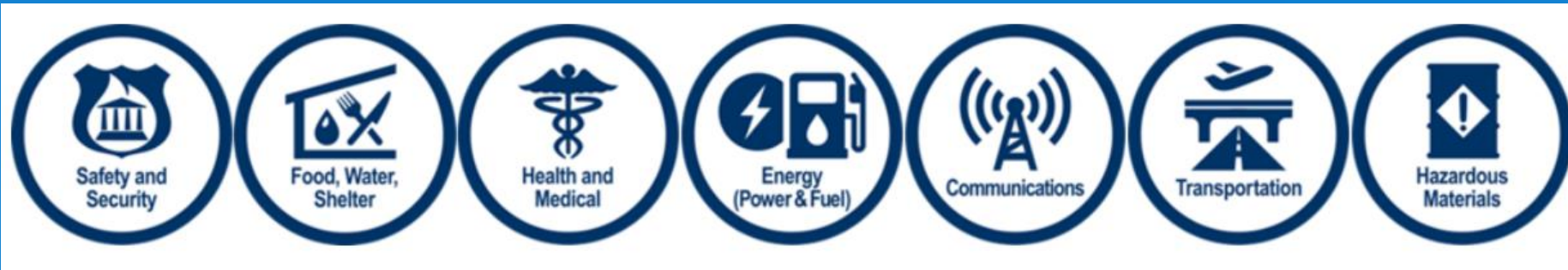
The Mitigation Needs Assessment (MNA) sections were developed using data from the 2019 Territorial Hazard Mitigation Plan, and new data analysis.

- As a result of the ongoing pandemic, Pandemic/Disease Outbreak has been added.
- Potential threats and risks have been analyzed, examining mitigation measures that may reduce potential risk to residents of the Territory.
- Investment priorities, project selections and proposed programs align the MNA with selected activities outlined within the Action Plan.
- Significant overlap exists between territorial priorities, the assessment of the data for community needs, and the CDBG eligible activities, especially when factoring in the community lifelines that are key priorities following any disaster.

Mitigation Needs Assessment

As the most fundamental services in the community that enable all other aspects of society to function following a disaster, Lifelines are also addressed within the MNA in calculating risks and identifying needs.

Address 7 critical service areas or community lifelines:



CDBG-MIT HUD National Objectives

All CDBG-MIT funded projects must also:

1. Demonstrate the ability to operate for the useful life of the project and include a plan for the long-term operation and maintenance of infrastructure and public facility projects.
2. Be consistent with other mitigation activities that will be carried out.

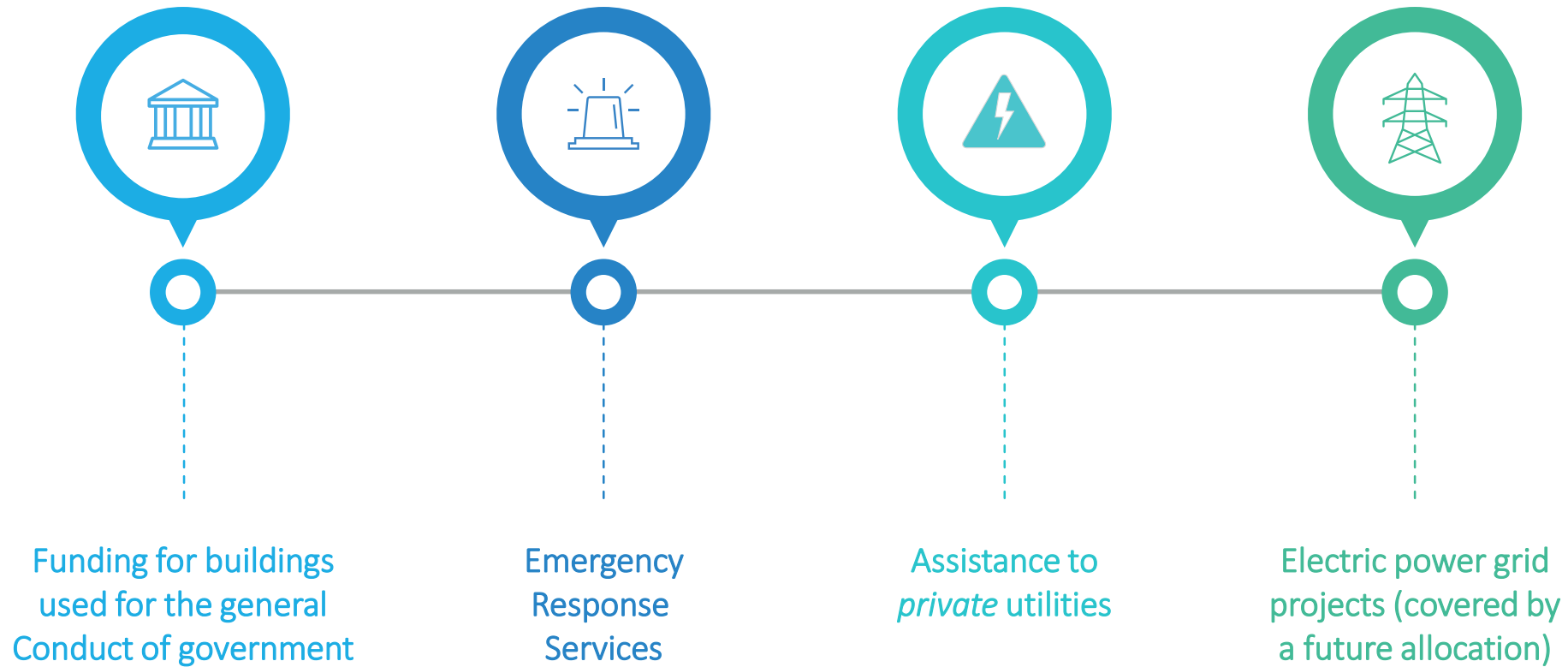
Low-to-Moderate Income (LMI) National Objective:

1. Benefit vulnerable lower-income people and communities. Must benefit 50% low-and-moderate income persons.

Urgent Need Mitigation National Objective:

1. Address the current and future risks identified in the Mitigation Needs Assessment.
2. Result in measurable and verifiable reduction in the risk of loss of life and property.

Examples of **Ineligible** Mitigation Projects



CDBG-MIT Proposed Activities



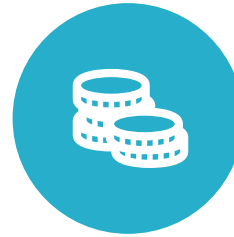
Identified Mitigation Activities



**INFRASTRUCTURE &
PUBLIC FACILITIES**



HOUSING



**ECONOMIC
REVITALIZATION**

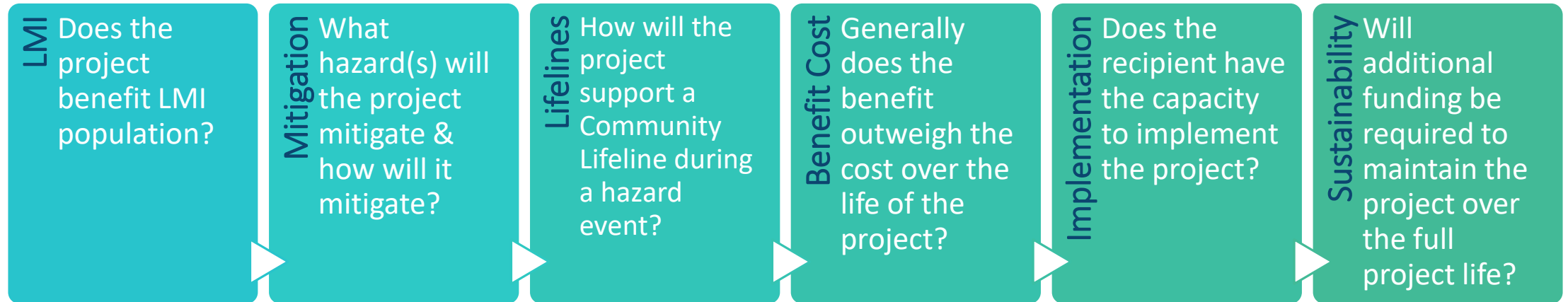


**PLANNING &
PUBLIC SERVICES**

As outlined in the draft Action Plan, CDBG-MIT funds allow the Territory to carry out strategic and high-impact activities to minimize, mitigate or eliminate risks and reduce losses from future disasters in key activity areas.

In addition to mitigating disaster risks, these funds provide an opportunity to improve local planning protocols and procedures in the Territory as well.

Mitigation Project Considerations



CDBG-MIT Activity Allocations

Activity Category	Project/Program	Total Project Allocation	% of Total
Infrastructure & Public Facilities	Community Resilience & Public Facilities	\$102,500,000.00	
	Resilient Critical & Natural Infrastructure	\$315,700,000.00	
	Total Allocation	\$418,200,000.00	54%
Economic Resilience & Revitalization	Commercial Hardening & Financing	\$40,962,500.00	
	Small Business Mitigation	\$35,787,500.00	
	Total Allocation	\$76,750,000.00	10%
Housing	Multifamily Housing	\$102,500,000.00	
	VIHFA New Home Construction (Home Ownership)	\$61,500,000.00	
	Homeless Housing Initiative	\$23,575,000.00	
	Innovative Resilient Housing	\$5,125,000.00	
	Total Allocation	\$192,700,000.00	25%
Public Services		\$15,400,000.00	2%
Planning		\$32,428,600.00	4%
Administration		\$38,709,400.00	5%
Totals		\$774,188,000.00	100%

Infrastructure & Public Facilities



INFRASTRUCTURE & PUBLIC FACILITIES

Activity Category	Project/Program	Total Project Allocation	% of Total
Infrastructure & Public Facilities	Community Resilience & Public Facilities	\$102,500,000.00	
	Resilient Critical & Natural Infrastructure	\$315,700,000.00	
	Total Allocation	\$418,200,000.00	54%

Adequate, community infrastructure and permanent emergency shelters are essential, so efforts in this area will focus on developing multi-purpose facilities that are dedicated to disaster preparedness, sheltering needs for disasters and other emergency situations. Hardening and upgrading existing infrastructure is anticipated throughout the Territory.

Critical Infrastructure Resilience

“Hardening public infrastructure is critical to the Territory’s ability to mitigate risks to public health and safety even before an extreme weather event occurs. A high priority for the U.S. Virgin Islands will be funding activities that mitigate risks to utility, transportation, and hazardous waste disposal, systems particularly for the facilities that serve the health and safety of the community. The Territory has identified several resilience and mitigation measures, which include hardening public infrastructure, elevating key roadways, burying or otherwise hardening utility lines, reducing the risk of storm water runoff erosion and flood exposure, and creating sustainable waste management for the Territory.

Activities related to these projects will be focused on hardening infrastructure against severe weather events. This will include measures to harden infrastructure facilities against high winds, heavy rainfall, flood exposure, storm water run-off, and their effects...”

- CDBG-MIT Action Plan, pages 98-99

Infrastructure Project Examples

“For example, the Department of Public Works (DPW), with assistance from FEMA and FHWA, has identified potential mechanisms to reduce overall vulnerability of the transportation infrastructure. Structural projects for DPW may include, repair, reconstruction, and improvement of resilience to transportation infrastructure including roads, bridges, ghuts, culverts, additional drainage systems, embankments, traffic signals, and bringing signage up to industry standards, as applicable to the Territory. Non-structural approaches may include hydrologic and hydraulic studies, flood-risk modeling, monitoring systems such as GIS, public outreach and education, and future planning measures.

The US Virgin Islands Waste Management infrastructure was severely damaged by Hurricanes Irma and Maria. The hurricanes generated 825,000 cubic yards of debris, which is almost three times as much waste as the Territory typically generates in an entire year. The Territory’s two existing landfills have been mandated to close by decree due to overfilling as a result of this increase. One of the overburdened landfills is near an environmentally sensitive zone on St. Thomas (Bovoni) and the other landfill is near the St. Croix airport (Anguilla).”

Infrastructure Resilience Planning

The VIHFA will develop policies and procedures for the Critical and Natural Infrastructure Resilience program that will outline all requirements for a project to be eligible for funding. All proposed projects must submit an application that describes the project's connection to mitigation needs and the priorities and eligibility requirements outlined in the Action Plan.

If remaining funds allow for additional projects that are not identified below in Priorities, they may be ranked and scored in conformance with a set of scoring criteria identified in the policies and procedures.

-CDBG-MIT Action Plan, page 94

Covered Projects

Infrastructure projects having a total project cost of \$50 million or more, with **at least \$25 million** of CDBG funds regardless of source (e.g., CDBG–DR, CDBG–MIT, or CDBG)

Covered projects have additional requirements including the development of a benefit-cost-analysis (BCA)

Economic Revitalization



ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION

Economic Resilience & Revitalization

Commercial Hardening & Financing	\$40,962,500.00	
Small Business Mitigation	\$35,787,500.00	
Total Allocation	\$76,750,000.00	10%

Economic revitalization is a crucial component for the long-term resilience and viability of communities and households in the Territory. Each potential economic resilience activity must demonstrate how it will contribute to meeting the CDBG-MIT criteria for eligible economic development assistance in order to be considered for funding.

Planned Activities

The VIHFA will develop policies and procedures that will outline all requirements for any Economic Resilience & Revitalization project to be eligible for funding.

- All proposed projects must submit an application that describes the project's connection to mitigation needs and the priorities and eligibility requirements outlined in this Action Plan.
- Identified projects will be ranked and scored in conformance with a set of scoring criteria identified in the policies and procedures.

Program	Allocation	Community Lifeline Impact
Commercial Hardening & Financing	\$40,000,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food, Water, Sheltering• Safety and Security• Hazardous Materials• Communications
Small Business Mitigation	\$35,000,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food, Water, Sheltering• Safety and Security• Communications

Commercial Hardening & Financing Plans

“The goal of the Commercial Hardening & Financing Program is to minimize operational down time and accelerate recovery of commercial areas after a disaster to benefit LMI residents and others. Privately owned commercial or industrial buildings or ports may be rehabilitated or hardened to become more resilient. Such projects may include but are not limited to those that result in abatement of asbestos hazards, lead-based paint hazards evaluation and reduction, and the correction of code violations and provision of permanent emergency power (e.g. generators and solar arrays).”

“Commercial financing is often needed to supplement or replace CDBG-MIT funds for economic resilience and revitalization projects. Programs initiated or systems improved to enhance or replace privately available capital sources may be eligible for funding.”

-CDBG-MIT Action Plan, pages 98-99

Small Business Mitigation

Small Business Mitigation projects will be prioritized that meet the CDBG-MIT criteria for eligible economic development assistance and do the following:

- Create jobs for predominantly LMI individuals
- Reduce risks to life, property, and critical environments
- Stabilize and grow the tourism industry through key infrastructure improvements to ports and commercial areas that will increase the Territory's capacity to receive tourists
- Remove hazardous materials from key commercial areas
- Harden infrastructure to mitigate against future disasters in key commercial areas
- In conjunction with improvements, utilize job placement programs for trainees
- Increase the capacity of USVI ports and harbors

Housing



HOUSING

Housing	Multifamily Housing	\$102,500,000.00	
	VIHFA New Home Construction (Home Ownership)	\$61,500,000.00	
	Homeless Housing Initiative	\$23,575,000.00	
	Innovative Resilient Housing	\$5,125,000.00	
	Total Allocation	\$192,700,000.00	25%

The VIHFA is exploring expansion of existing CDBG-DR development projects to conform to the additional mitigation objectives set forth in this Action Plan. In assessing the community demand (driven by public outreach and stakeholder events), the VIHFA has identified significant increased need for housing, in addition to the programs already undertaken through the CDBG-DR program.

Planned Housing Activities

The VIHFA will utilize several solutions to address the need for resilient and viable permanent housing:

- Mitigation rehabilitation or reconstruction of owner-occupied and rental units
- Options for first time homebuyers; voluntary acquisition or buyouts of high-risk properties
- Increased affordability of rental stock
- Restoring and making more resilient the inventory of units for particularly vulnerable populations, especially those living in public and supportive housing
- Priority will be given to the most vulnerable Virgin Islanders.

Program	Allocation	Community Lifeline Impact
Single Family Resilient New Home Construction	\$60,000,000.00	Food, Water, Sheltering
Resilient Multifamily Housing	\$100,000,000.00	Food, Water, Sheltering
Homeless Housing Initiative	\$23,000,000.00	Food, Water, Sheltering
Innovative Resilient Housing	\$5,000,000.00	Food, Water, Sheltering

Planning & Public Services



**PLANNING &
PUBLIC SERVICES**

Public Services	\$15,400,000.00	2%
Planning	\$32,428,600.00	4%

Funding can support local and regional functional land use plans, master plans, historic preservation plans, comprehensive plans, community recovery plans, resilience plans, development of building codes, zoning ordinances, and neighborhood plans.

Planning Activities

CDBG-MIT funds represent a unique and significant opportunity for areas impacted by recent disasters to carry out strategic and high-impact activities to mitigate disaster risks and reduce future losses.

Identified projects for planning or studies will be ranked and scored in conformance with a set of scoring criteria identified in the policies and procedures.

Program	Allocation	Community Lifeline Impact
Planning	\$29,750,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food, Water, Sheltering• Safety and Security• Hazardous Materials• Communications• Transportation• Health & Medical• Energy

Public Services Activities

The public input process and Mitigation Needs Assessment reveal a need for direct services to the community to increase resilience during and following disasters.

To address this need, the program will provide grants through a competitive application process to social services organizations that may enhance the support service network for vulnerable populations.

Program	Allocation	Community Lifeline Impact
Public Services	\$15,000,000.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Food, Water, Sheltering• Safety and Security• Health and Medical

Public Services

Public service funds will be used to propose new services or to provide a measurable increase in an existing operational service within the Territory.

“The 2017 disasters exacerbated situations for already vulnerable populations. Within this group the share of unemployment is high resulting in a wide range of social services and subsidies required for these individuals and households. The occurrence of two back-to-back Category 5 storms and the displacement and chaos that followed, has also increased the need for supportive services for vulnerable populations.”

- CDBG-MIT Action Plan, page 107

Administration



ADMINISTRATION

Administration	\$38,709,400.00	5%
Totals	\$774,188,000.00	100%

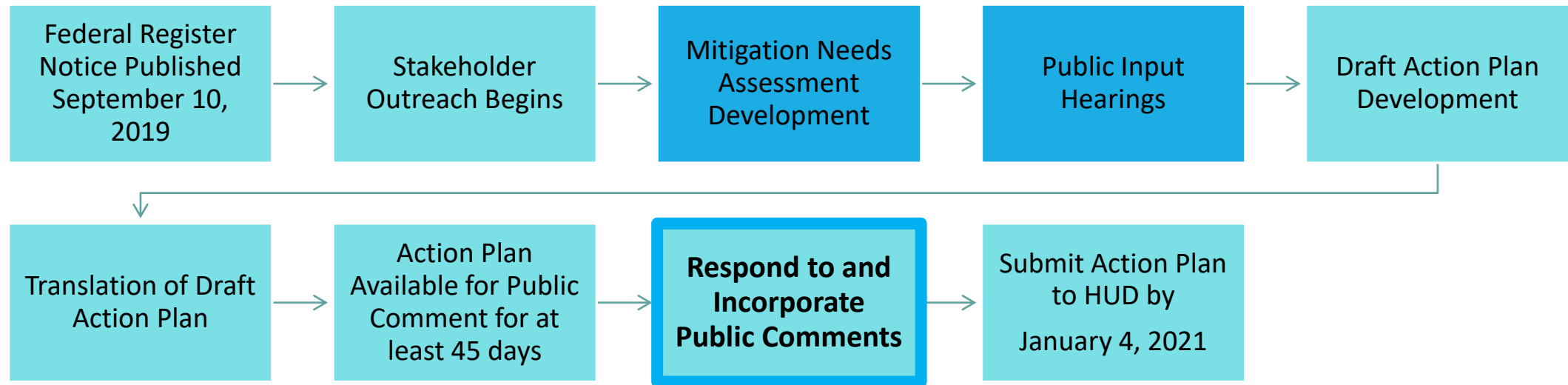
Planned Administrative Activities

The VIHFA administrative costs for purposes of oversight, management, and reporting will not exceed 5%.

Caps may be set on administration and project delivery costs for partner entities and subrecipients within subsequent program guidelines and policies and procedures.

Activity Category	Project/Program	Total Project Allocation	% of Total
Administration		\$38,709,400.00	5%

CDBG-MIT Action Plan Timeline



CDBG-MIT Activity Allocation Review

Activity Category	Project/Program	Total Project Allocation	% of Total
Infrastructure & Public Facilities	Community Resilience & Public Facilities	\$102,500,000.00	
	Resilient Critical & Natural Infrastructure	\$315,700,000.00	
	Total Allocation	\$418,200,000.00	54%
Economic Resilience & Revitalization	Commercial Hardening & Financing	\$40,962,500.00	
	Small Business Mitigation	\$35,787,500.00	
	Total Allocation	\$76,750,000.00	10%
Housing	Multifamily Housing	\$102,500,000.00	
	VIHFA New Home Construction (Home Ownership)	\$61,500,000.00	
	Homeless Housing Initiative	\$23,575,000.00	
	Innovative Resilient Housing	\$5,125,000.00	
	Total Allocation	\$192,700,000.00	25%
Public Services		\$15,400,000.00	2%
Planning		\$32,428,600.00	4%
Administration		\$38,709,400.00	5%
Totals		\$774,188,000.00	100%

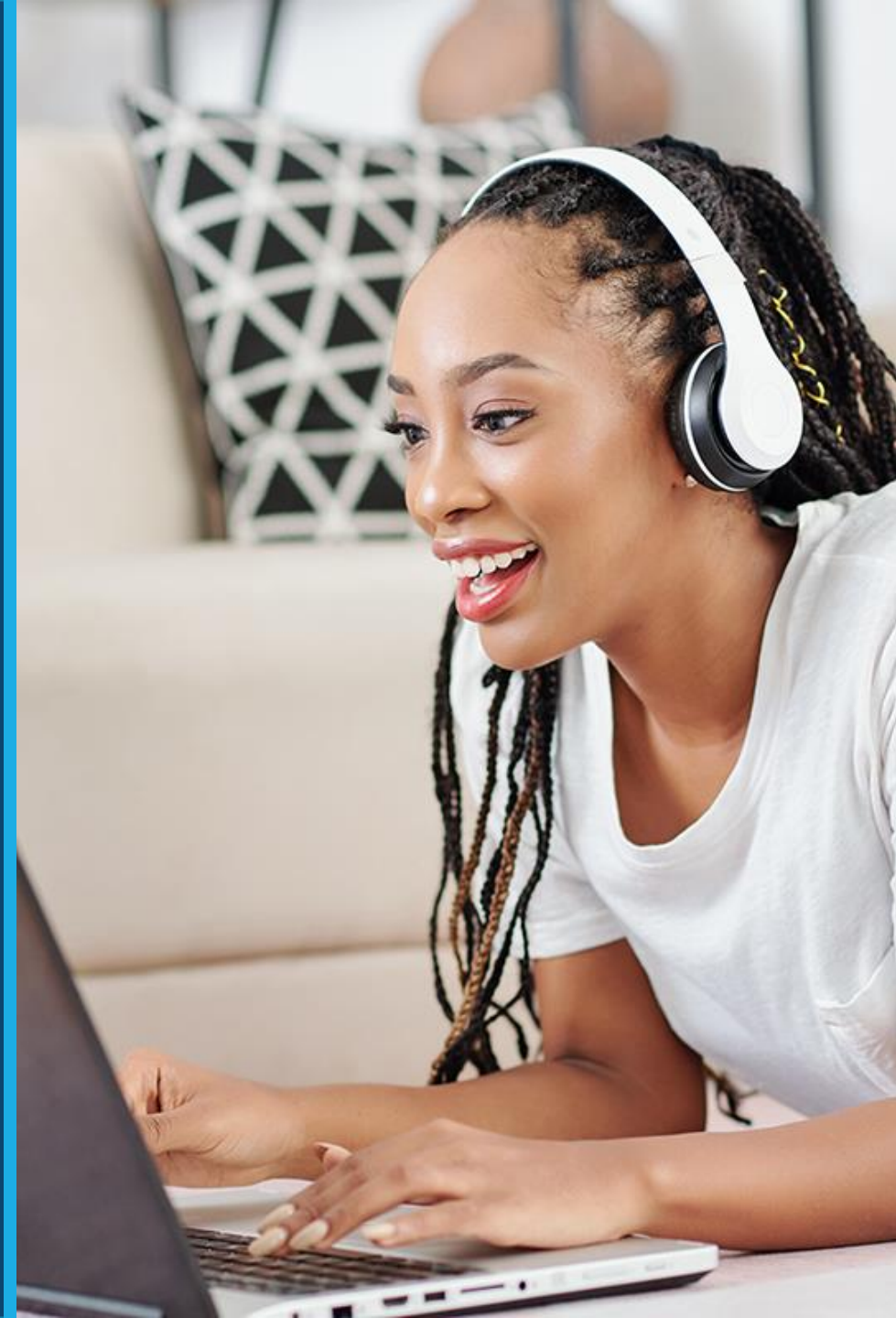
An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely in the Caribbean. The foreground shows a clear, turquoise harbor with a small concrete pier and a few floating buoys. A rocky breakwater separates the harbor from a small beach area with a few parked cars and a red truck. The middle ground is filled with a dense cluster of buildings, mostly with light-colored walls and red or grey roofs. Some buildings have multiple stories and balconies. The background consists of lush green hills with scattered houses and a church with a tall steeple. The sky is a clear, bright blue.

CDBG-MIT Action Plan Comments

Ongoing Stakeholder Input

This is the **2nd public hearing** conducted to receive citizen comments and feedback after the Action Plan has been published.

A **45-day comment period** has now started prior to submission of the Action Plan to HUD in December 2020, prior to the January 4, 2021 deadline.



Please Submit Comments Now

The VIHFA wants to hear your comments.



1. Verbal comments are encouraged at the end of the presentation.
 - Add your first and last name in the Chat feature within **Zoom**
 - Comments are first come, first served
 - Limited to 4 minutes per person
2. Questions and comments can also be submitted using the **Zoom** Chat feature.
 - Include your first and last name
 - Questions will be addressed if time allows.
 - All comments will be recorded and may be addressed at a later date in written format.
3. Take the VIHFA CDBG-MIT Survey at www.vihfa.gov or <https://tinyurl.com/y7t35cpf> – link in Chat.
4. Email your feedback and comments to VIHFA at mitigation@vihfa.gov

Today's Verbal and Written Public Input

- State your name when recognized
- State any affiliation you may have
- 4 minute limit on verbal comments
- Comments will also be accepted via the **Zoom** Chat function. Questions will be answered if time allows.
- Unaddressed comments will be recorded, and responses provided in written format at a later date.



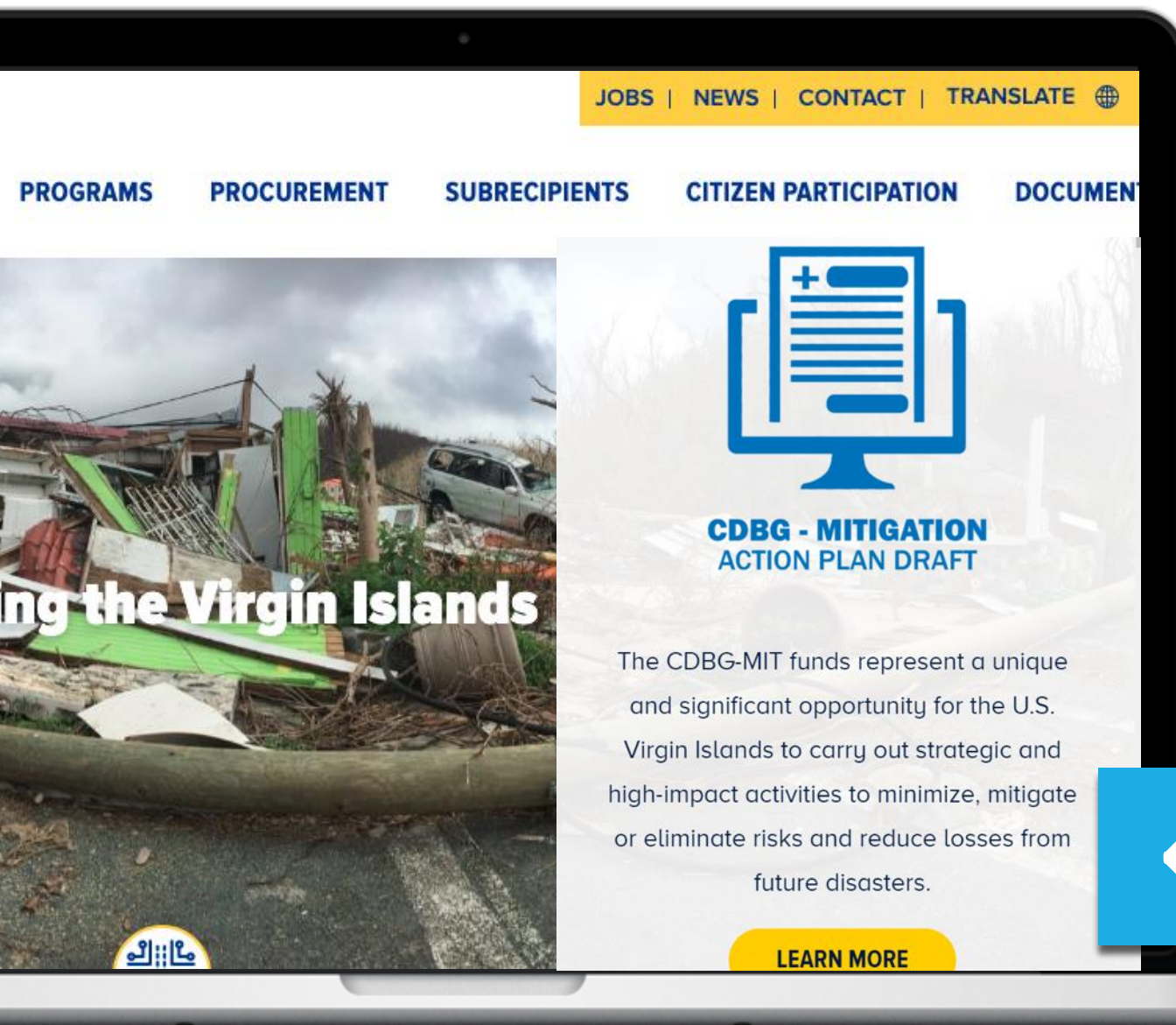
Thank you!

The VIHFA appreciates your participation today.

- Further written comments will be accepted via email to Mitigation@vihfa.gov
- Comments can also be submitted via the online survey available at www.vihfa.gov or <https://tinyurl.com/y7t35cpf>
- Please plan to submit comments for consideration
- **Our next** public meeting will be on **Thursday, December 3 at 2 pm.**

Please pass along this information on to your friends and neighbors.





Published Draft CDBG-MIT Action Plan

Read The Full Plan At:

<https://cdbgdr.vihfa.gov/>

